(e) The NTPC are pursuing the recovery of their dues with the State Electricity Boards and Undertakings concerned. The matter is also being followed up with the State Governments etc. concerned who have been advised to expedite liquidation of the arrears and to open Letters of Credit for payment of the dues.

Import of L.P.G.

3317. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are import ing LPG and if so, since when;

(b) whether Government proptose to increase the import of LPG during the current financial year and to what extent;

(c) what is the cost of import bill for LPG during the last three years (yearwise); and ,

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) The import of LPG was started in the year 1979-80.

(b) to (d) The details regarding the import of LPG during last three years is indicated below:

Qty. : '000 tonnes

Value Rs./lakhs

	Quanti ty	Value
1985-86 .	32	1090
1986-87 .	22	409
1987-8* . (Provisional)	152	4501

Power consumption by agricultural sector

3318. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased t_0 state:

(a) what percentage of energy is utilised by the agricultural sector in the country at present; and

(b) what are the proposals to enhance the share of power consumption in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP-NATH RAI): (a) According t_0 the thirteenth power survey committee report, the percentage of energy utilised by the agri-cultural sector during 1987-88 was estimated to be 18.12 per cent.

(b) The supply of power to various cat-egories of consumers is decided by the State authorities keeping in view the overall demand for power and its availability. Tb_e states have been advised from time to time to give priority to the supply of power t_D the agricultural sector.

Request of Punjab State Electricity Board for loan

3319. SHRT PAWAN KUMAR BAN SAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY te pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corpo ration has received a request from Punja!-State Electricity Board for loan for impr-ovement of the distribution system in urban areas.

(b) if so, what are the details theretaf; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP-NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation had received proposals from 'he Punjab State Electricity Board for financial assistance for improving the distribution system in Amritsar, Batala, Ludhiana and Pathankot.